

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 /083 W  
-----131158Z 046792 /41  
R 130954Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3143  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 12863

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH  
SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER BLAMES FORMER POLITICIANS FOR RUMOR-  
MONGERING

REF: BANGKOK 12772

1. ON JUNE 11 DEFENSE MINISTER ADM SANGAT CHALOYU ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO DISPELL RUMORS OF DISUNITY WITHIN THE MILITARY AND AMILITARY-CIVILIAN RIFT (SEE REFTTEL FOR JUNE 10 REMARKS TO PRESS). HE TOLD REPORTERS THATTHOSE WHO SPREAD THE RUMORS WERE BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT-WING POLITICIANS. THESE POLITICIANS, WHO IN THE PAST WERE BITTER ENEMIES, WERE COOPERATING TO BRING DOWN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HE PREDICTED THAT THEY WOULD FALL OUT AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

2. SANGAT ALSO BLAMED THE ASTROLOGERS FOR LEADING THE POLITICIANS ON. HE IS QUOTED IN THE NATION REVIEW OF JUNE 12 AS SAYING "DON'T THEY REALIZE THAT ONE PERSON WHO CONSULTED HIS ASTROLOGER HAS ALREADY MET THE  
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EXECUTIONER?" APPARENTLY REFERRING TO GEN CHALAT HIRANYASASIR, WHO WAS EXECUTED ON APRIL 21 FOR HIS PART IN THE ABORTIVE MARCH 26 COUP.

3. SANGAT ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE MILITARY HAS BEEN ON 50 PERCENT ALERT SINCE MARCH 26. HE AGAIN REITERATED THAT DEMANDS FOR CHANGES IN THE CABINET MUST BE

ACCOMPANIED BY CONCRETE REASONS FOR SUCH CHANGES, NOT JUST EMPTY CRITICISM. HE ALSO CONCEDED THAT THE RUMORS HAVE AFFECTED THE ECONOMY, SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY DEPOSITORS HAD WITHDRAWN MONEY FROM THE BANKS.

4. COMMENT: THIS INTERVIEW IS ONE IN A SERIES BY MILITARY LEADERS TO QUIET THE FEARS OF THE PUBLIC. BESIDES ATTEMPTING TO DISPELL THE "COUP" RUMORS, SANGAT IN THIS INSTANCE ALSO SEEMED TO BE WARNING FUTURE PLOTTERS AND TROUBLEMAKERS TO THINK TWICE BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION. HE HAS ALSO CONCEDED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SUPPRESS MALICIOUS RUMORS AND HINTED THAT FUTURE UNREST IS POSSIBLE WHEN HE MENTIONED THAT THE FOUR KEY MILITARY OFFICES WHO LED THE 1932 COUP, WHICH LAUNCHED CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THAILAND, SOON FELL OUT AND "SHOT AT EACH OTHER". HE OBSERVED THIS IS "NATURAL" IN THAI POLITICS.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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